

Claims:

1. A filter comprising:

5 a plurality of pleats, at least one pleat including a pair of pleat legs and a pleat tip region, wherein a thickness of the pleat tip region at a point spaced about [one to] four pleat leg thicknesses from the end of the pleat tip region is less than [or equal to] about twice the pleat leg thickness.

2. A filter comprising:

10 a plurality of pleats, at least one pleat including a pair of pleat legs and a pleat tip region, wherein a thickness of the pleat tip region at a point spaced about [one to] four pleat leg thicknesses from the end of the pleat tip region is less than [or equal to] a distance between corresponding points on opposing outer surfaces of the pleat legs.

15 3. A filter comprising:

a pleated structure having a plurality of pleats and more than one layer, at least one of the pleats having a reformed pleat tip region.

4. A filter comprising:

20 a pleated structure having a plurality of pleats and a pair of pleat legs, at least one of the pleats having a reformed pleat tip region and contacting pleat legs.

5. A filter comprising:

25 a plurality of pleats, at least one pleat including a pleat tip region having contacting inner surfaces.

6. A filter comprising:

30 a pleated porous sheet having a polymeric material and a plurality of pleats, at least one pleat including a pair of pleat legs and a pleat tip region, wherein the sheet includes a pre-scored region at the pleat tip region.

7. A method of making a filter comprising:

35 forming a plurality of pleats having pleat tip regions; and applying pressure to opposing outer surfaces of at least one pleat tip region.

8. A method of making a filter comprising:

forming a plurality of pleats free of bulbous pleat tip regions.

9. A method of making a filter comprising:

40 forming a plurality of pleats wherein a thickness of each pleat tip region at a point spaced [about one to] about four pleat leg thicknesses from the end of the pleat tip region is less than [or equal to] about twice the pleat leg thickness.

10. A method of making a filter comprising:

45 forming a plurality of pleats wherein a thickness of each pleat tip region at a point spaced [about one to] about four pleat leg thicknesses from the end of the pleat tip region is less than [or equal to] a distance between corresponding points on opposing outer surfaces of the pleat legs.

11. A method of making a filter comprising:
scoring a porous sheet including a polymeric material; and
pleating the porous sheet.

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12. An apparatus comprising:
one or more dies arranged to reform a pleat tip region of a pleat.

A 13. A filter made by the method ^{of claim 7} or apparatus of any of claims 7-12.

A 10 14. The filter, ^{of claim 1} method or apparatus of any of the preceding claims wherein the filter includes
pleat legs generally parallel to each other.

A 15 15. The filter, ^{of claim 1} method or apparatus of any of the preceding claims wherein the filter
comprises a fluoropolymeric material.

A 16. The filter, ^{of claim 1} method or apparatus of any of the preceding claims wherein the filter includes
more than one layer.